



ALL WILL BE REVEALED.

BATTLESTAR
GALACTICA
THE FINAL SEASON

SCIFI.COM/BATTLESTAR

ALL NEW EPISODES BEGIN FRIDAY APRIL 4TH AT 10/9C

Sci Fi



ENNIS
ERSKINE

DAN DARE™



FREE COMIC BOOK DAY™

DAN DARE

CREATED BY FRANK HAMPSON
SCRIPT GARTH ENNIS
ART GARY ERSKINE
COVER ART BRYAN TALBOT
COLOR PARASURAMAN A.
LETTERS RAKESH B. MAHADIK
PROJECT MANAGER S.P. KARTHIKEYAN
EDITOR CHARLIE BECKERMAN

THE DAN DARE CORPORATION LTD.
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COLIN FREWIN
THANKS TO LISA PARSLEY

THE STRANDED

CREATED BY MIKE CAREY
SCRIPT MIKE CAREY
ART SIDDHARTH KOTIAN
INKS JYOTSNA V. DOMSE
COLORS ANAND BALUSAMY
COVER MARC SILVESTRI
LETTERS SUDBIR B. PISAL
PROJECT MANAGER REUBEN THOMAS
EDITOR STUART MOORE

FOR SCIFI
DAVE HOWE,
ADAM STOTSKY, TONY OPTICAN,
R. JAMES CUPELLI, MARK STERN
VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO
BONNIE HAMMER, BLAKE CALLAWAY,
MATTHEW CHIAVELLI, RANDY GIUDICE,
NICOLINA KUH, KATE LEONARD,
JUSTIN SMITH, ALEX TERAPANE

RAMAYAN RELOADED

CREATED BY DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR
SCRIPT SHAMIK DASGUPTA
ART JEEVAN KANG
COLORS N.S. SATHISH KUMAR
LETTERS B.S. RAVI KIRAN
PROJECT MANAGER S.VENKATESH KUMAR
EDITOR RON MARZ

VIRGIN COMICS

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and Publisher
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NEIL MARKS

Chief Visionaries
**DEEPAK CHOPRA,
SHEKHAR KAPUR,
SIR RICHARD BRANSON**

Special Thanks to
**Frances Farrow, Dan Porter,
Christopher Linen, Peter Feldman,
Raju Puthukarai, Mallika Chopra,
Peter Hampson & Jonathan Peachey.**

DAN DARE™

THE STRANDED

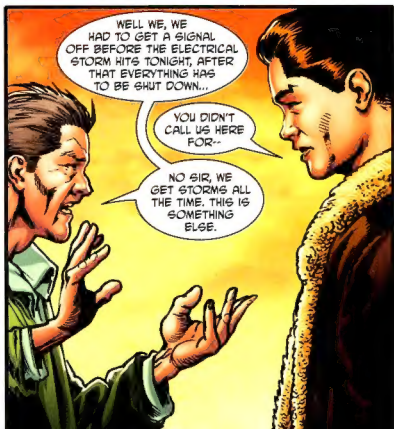
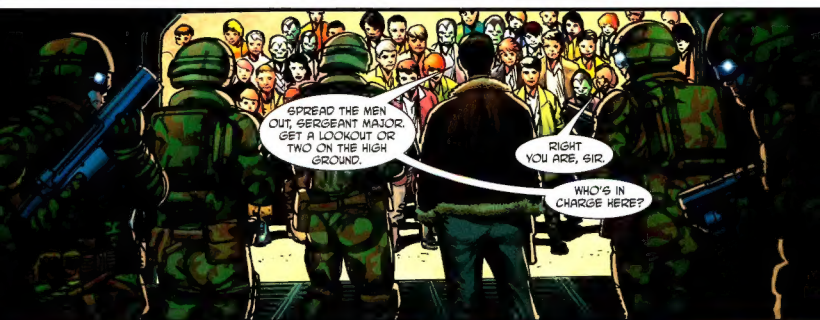
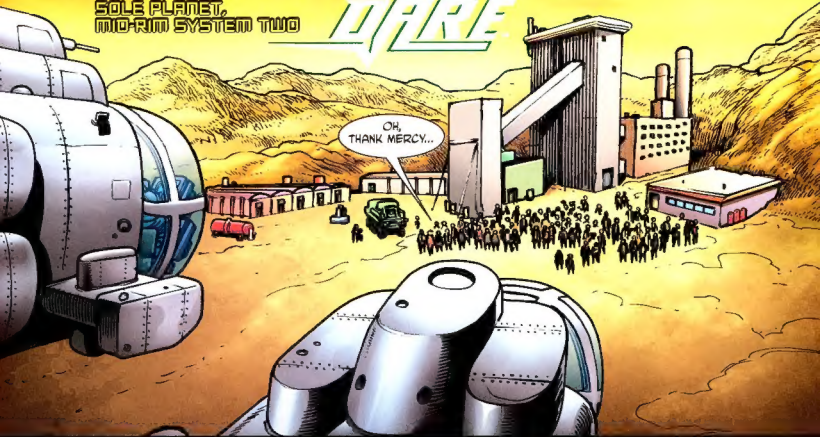
DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT
Ramayana RELOADED™
3392 AD



COLONY ONE, PORT MAPPER.

SOLE PLANET,
MID-RIM SYSTEM TWO

DAN
DARE

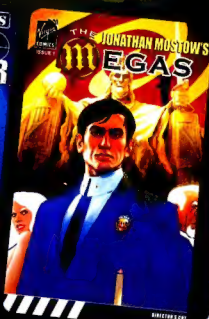
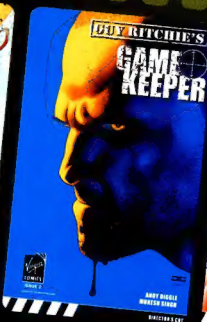


DIRECTOR'S CUT

PRODUCTION:
GROUNDBREAKING COMICS

DIRECTOR:
VISIONARY DIRECTORS

STUDIO:
VIRGIN COMICS



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VIRGINCOMICS.COM



WE GOT WORD OF THE TREEN FLEET YESTERDAY, JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE. THE TROUBLE STARTED AFTER SUNDOWN.

ELEVEN PEOPLE HAVE DISAPPEARED, MISTER DARE. WE'VE FOUND BLOOD, WE'VE HEARD SCREAMS, BUT WE'VE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM...!

YES WE DO, HILLARY!

IT'S THESE BLOODY SNAKES! THEY KNOW THEIR BOSS IS COMING BACK, THEY'RE GETTING THE PARTY STARTED!

OLD HABITS DIE HARD FOR THESE BOYS, ALL RIGHT...!

FIVE OF THE ELEVEN WERE TREENS.

WE'RE NO MORE IN LEAGUE WITH THE MEKON THAN YOU ARE.

CRETINS.



KEEP A LID ON THAT, HILLARY. WE DON'T WANT A PANIC.

LOCAL DETACHMENT C.O., APPARENTLY.

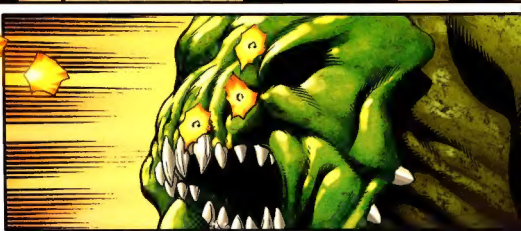
CAPTAIN FINLEY, SIR. SHERWOOD FORESTERS.

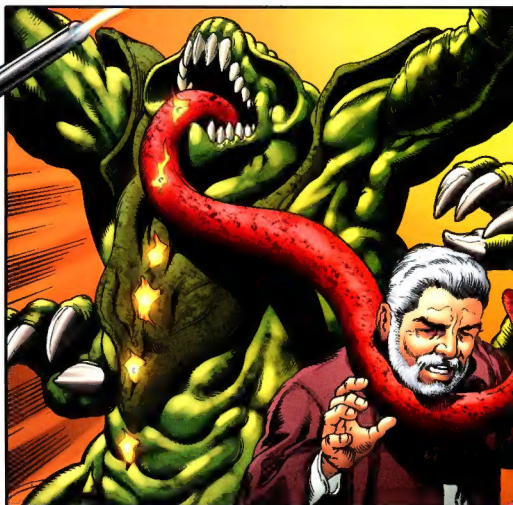
FRANKLY, SIR, THESE PEOPLE SPEND MOST OF THEIR FREE TIME DRUNK AND THE REST OF IT FALLING DOWN MINE SHAFTS. THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THEM GOING MISSING; SOME BOD DOESN'T SHOW UP FOR WORK AND THE NEXT DAY MY CHAPS FIND HIM WITH HIS NECK BROKEN...

ELEVEN AT ONCE?

PROBABLY A PARTY, SIR.









STAY
AS--STILL AS
YOU--

CAN,
HE SAYS--!

THREE SHOTS
TO THE HEAD AND
NOTHING... SO I WONDER
WHICH ONE ACTUALLY
KILLED IT...?



LOOK AT THAT,
ITS EYES ARE IN
ITS CHEST. SUGGESTS
THAT'S WHERE ITS
BRAIN IS, TOO.

GOOD
TO KNOW.



MUSCULATURE'S
VAGUELY FAMILIAR.
SKIN TONE, TOO.

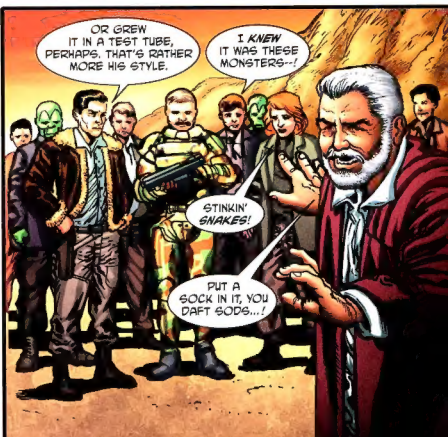
SORT O'
TREEN-ISH, YOU
MIGHT SAY.

IT IS
A TORR.



A CREATURE OF
TREEN LEGEND. IT IS
NOT EVEN SUPPOSED
TO EXIST.

IF THE MEKON
CAN SUMMON SUCH A
DEMON, HIS POWER HAS
GROWN MIGHTIER
THAN EVER.



OR GREW
IT IN A TEST TUBE,
PERHAPS. THAT'S RATHER
MORE HIS STYLE.

I KNEW
IT WAS THESE
MONSTERS--!

STINKIN'
SNAKES!

PUT A
SOCK IN IT, YOU
DAFT GODS...!





MY GOD.

MAGX200

18

09

DH200R



WHAT...?

HUNDREDS OF THEM.

WHAT?



THAT STORM'LL BE ON US IN MINUTES...

AYE, AN' THEY'LL BE ON US IN HOURS.



THESE STORMS ARE LIKE ONE BIG ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PULSE, THEY SHORT OUT *EVERYTHING*! WE HAVE TO SHUT DOWN OR LOSE THE LOT!

I MEAN EVEN THE VEHICLES WILL BE USELESS, *HOW IN GOD'S NAME ARE WE GOING TO GET AWAY--?*

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, MAN, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN CHARGE AROUND HERE.





DAN DARE

WHO IS DAN DARE?

Is he Britain's most popular comic-book character of all time? Is he the reason that Garth Ennis agreed to tone down the expletives and imprecations? Or is he, as Ennis puts it, "our Captain America, our Superman, our Batman, he's all of them rolled into one"?

The answer to all of these questions is a resounding "yes." Exploding onto the British newsstands in 1950, Dan Dare was originally conceived in reaction to the horror comics being brought in from the US in the '40s. Dan Dare creator Frank Hampson and his partner Marcus Morris wanted to create a British hero that stood for morality and who promoted wholesome values. Colonel Daniel McGregor Dare—named after Hampson's wife's favorite hymn, "Dare to be a Daniel"—stood for honor, duty, and principle. He is, according to Ennis, the "quintessential British hero."

The original Dan Dare—which had wild success throughout the 1950s, selling all 900,000 copies of its first print run, and continuing consistently throughout the decade—took place in a fictional and then-futuristic 1990s, in a world governed by the United Nations. Dare was a colonel in the International Space Fleet, and was constantly saving the Earth from imminent destruction by nefarious forces, foremost among them, The Mekon: an evil genius and dictator who had enslaved the Treen people of Venus. Dare repeatedly rebuffed The Mekon's attempts to also enslave the people of Earth, earning himself fame and a reputation as the go-to hero of the Space Fleet.

In our revival of Dan Dare, Garth Ennis has meticulously updated this beloved icon. The United Nations has fallen, and Britain is the world's superpower, the Space Fleet has been disbanded and Dan Dare has retired. Yet, danger lurks on the edge of space. And because Dare is, above all, an officer and a gentleman, he heeds the call of his Prime Minister to return to the service—despite his severe misgivings about the PM himself. Ennis' Dare is simultaneously an homage to the great character that millions of British children grew up with and an extension of that character, bringing him to a world that is not united, where threats come from both on- and off-planet.

Don't miss this fantastic resurrection of a character that defined a generation. Between Garth Ennis' scripts and Gary Erskine's art, it's sure to be one wild ride.

See you on the inside.

The Virgin Comics
Editorial Team

Special Thanks to Peter Hampson

SPOTLIGHT ON SHAKTI

If you want to know what Shakti really means, go online and Google it. On my last check, I found over 3.6 million entries. Happy reading.

Now if you want to know how we define our comic book imprint Shakti, listen up. First, it's an ancient Sanskrit word pronounced shuck-TEE. To us, Shakti is India's edge. It is a generation of creators tapping into their imaginations and showcasing their talents. It is a generation of South Asian creators whose brilliance shines very, very brightly. So much talent, innovation, and creativity that the planet should know about. Shakti is the stories we want to tell, done up the way we want to tell them, infused with fantasy, epic adventures and timeless tales. Shakti literally translates as a form of power. Some say, she is the divine embodiment of power. Others claim Shakti is more a bolt of power, akin to a jolt of electricity that is bestowed from the Gods to those seeking their benevolence. We've borrowed from these ideas and more, because to us, Shakti is the determination to stay true to the spirit of the massive vault of Indian mythology from which we often pluck our stories but also the willingness to stray from the facts of them, and find their relevance in the world today.

In *Ramayan 3392AD*, which we have now been publishing for nearly two years, we have taken India's greatest epic, and re-imagined it in a way no one else before us has. We have taken the principle

characters Prince Rama and his loyal brother Lakshman, Rama's devoted consort Seeta, his faithful ally Hanuman, and their nemesis Ravan amongst others and reset them in a futuristic, post-apocalyptic scenario in which their quest for redemption, resurrection, and renunciation is a larger allegory for humankind. More specifically, while trying to stay true to the underlying ethos of the saga, we have intentionally questioned some of the underlying motives and ethics of the characters and their relationships with one another. In some cases, we have emulated aspects of the original epic, borrowed characters, scenes, and incidents and planted characters in them, if only to actively explore this seminal story from yet another point of view.

Our mission with Shakti is for the long haul. We hope that with every book that belongs to our Shakti line, readers will get another taste for a rich tradition of story-telling that goes back thousands of years and also feels fresh and provocative and unlike anything they have previously experienced. We realize that we're asking a lot of folks to enter into an alien world, one with strange names and exotic settings. It's uncomfortable—at first. But it gets easier. Remember the first time you held a Japanese Manga title in your hand?

We realize that these aren't your parent's comics. But then again, that's why we're making them.

Gotham Chopra
Editor-In-Chief

RAMAYAN 3392AD



INDIA AUTHENTIC



DEVI



THE SADHU



BUDDHA





DEEPAK CHOPRA & SHEKHAR KAPUR PRESENT

Ramayan™

3892 AD

HERE WE
GO AGAIN

TAKE YOUR OWN
WEAPONS. MAYBE THEY'LL
HELP YOU STAY ALIVE.

GENEROUS

SHE'S DOING THIS
BECAUSE SHE *LIKES*
YOU. WHY YOU BEING
SUCH A *JERK*? YOU
COULD JUST LEAVE
ME AND ELOPE WITH
THAT BROAD.

SHUT UP.
LAKSHMAN, YOU KNOW I
WOULD NOT ABANDON YOU
OR SEETA FOR ANYTHING.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
VANARAS AND NAGAS AND
ASURAS AND DEGENERATE
HYBRIDS OF ALL SPECIES ALIKE,
I WELCOME YOU TO THE
DWAND-YUDDH.

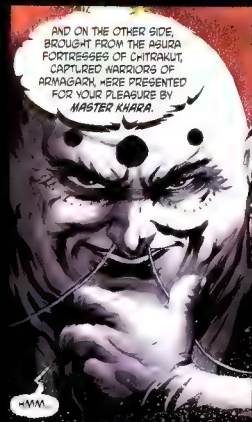
AT ONE SIDE,
YESTERDAY'S CHAMPIONS
RAMA AND LAKSHMAN,
KSHATRIYA WARRIORS OF
ARMAGARH.

AND ON THE OTHER SIDE,
BROUGHT FROM THE ASURA
FORTRESSES OF CHITRAKUT,
CAPTURED WARRIORS OF
ARMAGARH, HERE PRESENTED
FOR YOUR PLEASURE BY
MASTER KHARA.

OUR BROTHERS
AT ARMS ARE HERE.
WITH OUR FORCES
COMBINED, *NOTHING*
CAN STOP US.

TOGETHER WE
WILL RIP THAT FAT
BASTARD KHARA LIMB
FROM LIMB.

AN ENTIRE
PLATOON OF
KSHATRIYAS...



HMM



...FUSED TOGETHER
IN AN *EXPERIMENT GONE
WRONG* IN THE ASURA
STRONGHOLDS.

ONCE A UNIFIED
FORCE OF HEROIC MEN,
NOW UNITED IN THIS
FORMLESS ABOMINATION
KNOWN ONLY AS...

...KABANDHA!

START YOUR
BETTING!





Deepak Chopra's
Buddha
A Story of Enlightenment

"The Buddha was as mortal
as you and I, yet he attained
enlightenment and was raised
to the rank of an immortal.
The miracle is that he got
there following a heart as
human as yours and mine,
and just as vulnerable."

—DEEPAK CHOPRA



The Graphic Novel
Adaptation of Deepak Chopra's
New York Times Bestseller

THE STRANDED



Virgin
COMICS

Sci Fi.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

MIKE CAREY
SIDDHARTH KOTIAN



We've been wracking our brains, trying to recall how our relationship with the SCI FI Channel actually started. But like most things that get better every day, it's hard to backtrack and find that singular moment where it all began. So, instead of getting lost in the nostalgia, let's move into the present and look ahead to our future with the first book in our partnership, *The Stranded*.

Over the past few years, the SCI FI Channel has established itself as the preeminent brand name for fantasy and speculative television, with hit series like *Eureka*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and *Tin Man*. Now they have joined forces with us, Virgin Comics, to create entirely new and original stories that can exist in multiple media. Rather than taking television shows and turning them into comics, the Virgin-SCI FI team is collectively creating all new original stories to premiere first in a range of new comic book titles, and then go on to live elsewhere.

Our first book together is *The Stranded*, written by a creator that is fast becoming one of our favorite collaborators at Virgin Comics: Mike Carey. In *The Stranded*, five ordinary people must face a terrifying question: What if your entire world—your childhood, your family, your memories—was a lie? For *The Stranded*, it's true; they're each, secretly, from another world. And now a deadly, alien force has returned to try and kill them, operating through a twisted, altered human called Janus. Their only hope: Tamree, a dark, mysterious woman sent to Earth as their protector. One by one, Tamree must awaken the buried true memories of *The Stranded*—along with their powerful, unique psychic and physical abilities. Not only is this a story of discovery but one of suspense—these forgotten are being hunted by someone that is not particularly keen they remember who they are and what their real mission is here on Earth. We know we don't really need to convince you on anything written by Mike Carey, but this one is absolutely worth the price of admission!

One of the first questions people ask when they hear about our partnership with SCI FI is if our comic will eventually become a TV show on the SCI FI Channel? And the honest answer is: we certainly hope so! That's definitely partly the mission of our collaboration, to tread the well-worn path of allowing these great comics to serve as the incubator for great TV and/or films.

Really our mission with this new partnership is simply to find great stories and launch them in the medium we love: comics. To that end we think we've put together an editorial team that can help us nurture exciting and challenging material. It includes the lead editor of our line and a man with a history in the genre: the great Stuart Moore. On top of that, creatives from both Virgin Comics and the SCI FI Channel have been involved in the genesis and development of the stories. Specifically worth introducing to the readers of comics are a few of our partners at SCI FI including Dave Howe, Adam Stotsky, RI Cupelli, and Tony Optican, all of whom from day one of our initial discussions have been immersed in working with us to create great new stories that challenge the conventions of speculative fiction.

We hope to make this another laboratory for the imagination, a place where creators will come not only because they see it as a launching pad for great ideas, but also because our definition of "Sci-fi" will challenge them to redefine the rules, harness the power of possibility, and build a great story within the world they create.

So that, like a great Sci-fi tale, is our story so far. With no limits and no end in sight, we're on a voyage and hope you'll join us.

Gotham Chopra
Editor-In-Chief



JACKSON
HEIGHTS, NYC.

SLEEPER #8: DRUM.

THERE'S
A PRICE THAT HAS
TO BE PAID.

I CAN'T
OVERLOOK THIS.

THE STRANDED

YOU CAN'T,
OR YOU DON'T
WANT TO?

I SAID--

I HEARD
WHAT YOU
SAID.

LISTEN,
MRS. BAXTER.
THE BOOK IS THREE
WHOLE WEEKS
OVERDUE.

MY CAT
WAS SICK. ARE
YOU GOING TO FINE
ME BECAUSE MY CAT
WAS SICK?

WELL, NO, BUT
THE CASH BOX HAS TO
TALLY AT THE END OF THE
DAY. I DON'T--DON'T
MAKE THE RULES.

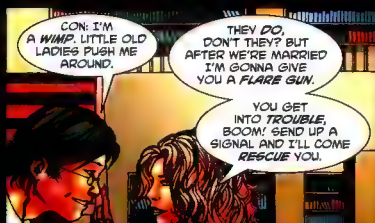
BUT I
SUPPOSE I
COULD--IT'S ONLY
A COUPLE OF
DOLLARS.

THERE.
OKAY. I
GUESS WE'RE
GOOD.

THANK YOU,
MISTER RUMECJ.
YOU'RE A SAINTLY
MAN.

OR AS
SOME WOULD SAY,
A PUSHOVER.

GO AHEAD,
BROOKE.
HAVE YOUR
FUN.



V I R G I N C O M I C S

E R E N

T A L

C S

DAN
OKE

SHERIDAN REPERS
DEV

Jenna Jameson's
SHADOW HUNTER

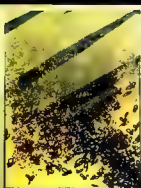
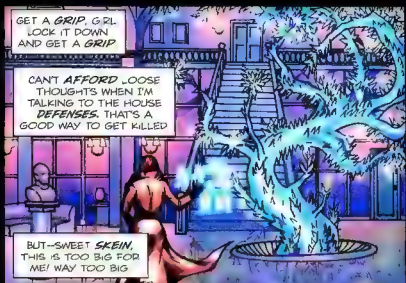
GUY RICHIE'S
GAME
KEEPER

THE
STRANDED

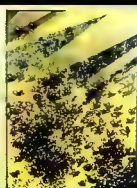
THE
SÄÄHR



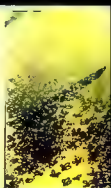
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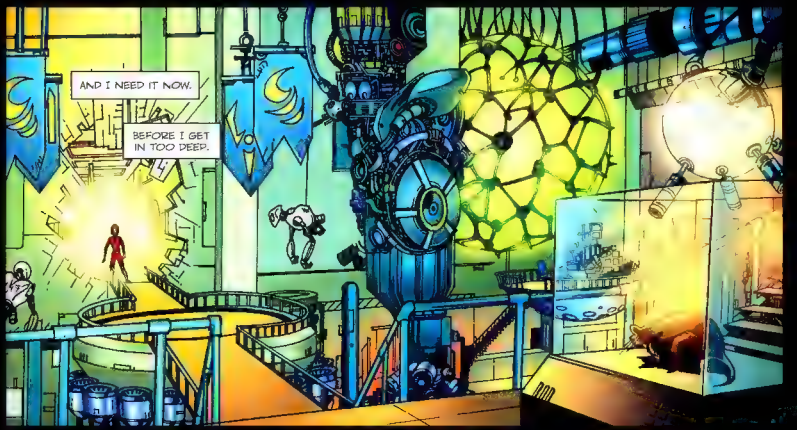


BOMBUS PASTORUM



OSMIA LIGNARIA





AND I NEED IT NOW.

BEFORE I GET
IN TOO DEEP.



PROFESSOR
ZANTEP
WAKE UP.



IT'S
ME, TAMREE.
AND I NEED TO
CONSULT.



TAMREE?
BUT--WHERE
AM I?

WHY IS IT
SO DARK?



BECAUSE THIS
ISN'T REALLY YOU. IT'S
JUST A PIECE OF YOUR
BRAIN GRAFTED ONTO
THE CEREBELLUM OF
A RAT.

WHAT? THEY
PUT MY BRAIN INSIDE
A RAT'S SKULL?

WELL, ONLY
A SMALL PIECE OF
IT. I'M SORRY IF THAT
DISTRESSES YOU.



DISTRESSED
ME? IT'S--IT'S
OBSCENE!

SKEIN AND SKY,
IS THIS HOW THEY
PAY ME BACK FOR
ALL THOSE YEARS
OF TOIL?

WHO? WHO DID
THIS TO ME? WHO CULTURED
MY UNIQUE MIND IN THE BRAIN
PAN OF A VERMINOUS
DOMESTIC PEST?

YOU DID.

OH, WELL,
YES, I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN. IT HAS
A CERTAIN TWISTED
GENIUS TO IT.

CAN WE TALK
ABOUT SOMETHING
ELSE BESIDES
YOU?

IF WE
MUST.



SEVEN OF MY
SLEEPERS ARE DEAD.
HOLLOWED OUT LIKE
GOURDS. I DON'T KNOW
HOW IT WAS DONE AND I
DON'T THINK I COULD
REPRODUCE IT.

CAN YOU GIVE
ME THE LOCATIONS
OF THE OTHER ANCHORS?
I CAN'T PROTECT THE
NESTS WITHOUT
THEIR HELP.

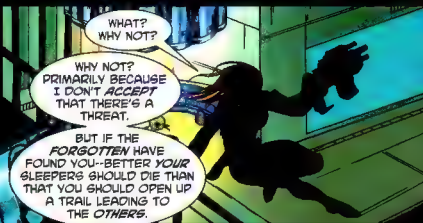
NO. I
CAN'T.



WHAT?
WHY NOT?

WHY NOT?
PRIMARILY BECAUSE
I DON'T ACCEPT
THAT THERE'S A
THREAT.

BUT IF THE
FORGOTTEN HAVE
FOUND YOU--BETTER YOUR
SLEEPERS SHOULD DIE THAN
THAT YOU SHOULD OPEN UP
A TRAIL LEADING TO
THE OTHERS.



SEVEN
DEAD, ZANTE.
THERE'S
NO IF.

CONSIDER,
TAMREE, YOU'VE
BEEN ALONE HERE
FOR A LONG
TIME.

IS IT
POSSIBLE YOU'RE
EXAGGERATING THE
DANGER BECAUSE YOU'RE
DESPERATE FOR SOME
COMPANY?





HEAR THAT?

I HAVE TO GO. ZANTE, THE THREAT IS REAL.

TELL ME WHERE THE OTHER ANCHORS ARE!

I CAN'T DO THAT. IT WOULD BE THE SUREST WAY TO PUT THEM IN THE SAME DANGER YOU'RE IN.



SKEIN DAMN YOU! YOU'RE LEAVING MY SLEEPERS TO DIE!

TO PROTECT THOUSANDS MORE.

AND DESPITE BEING ONLY A RELUCTANT PASSENGER INSIDE A RAT'S SENSORIUM, I GIVE YOU MY SINCERE APOLOGIES.



"I'M SURE THERE ARE OTHER VERSIONS OF ME PRESERVED IN EVEN MORE DEMEANING WAYS."

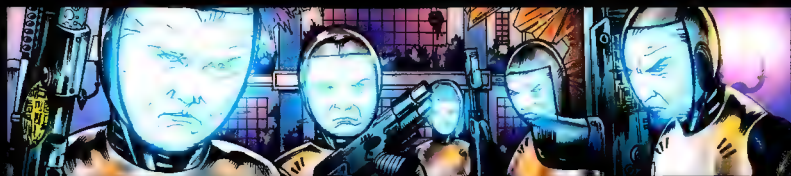
"GOOD LUCK. I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING ANOTHER LITTLE CHAT SOME TIME SOON."

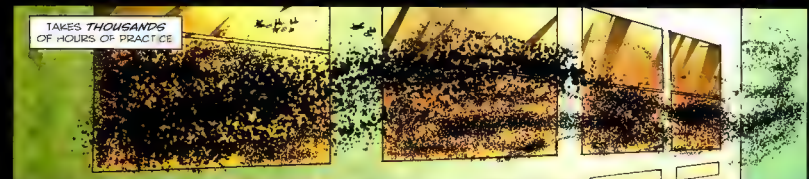
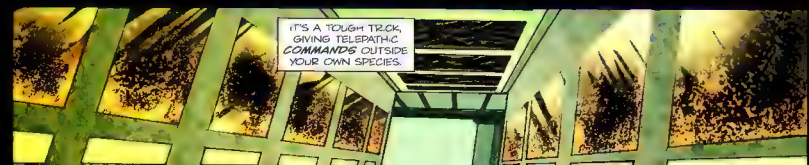
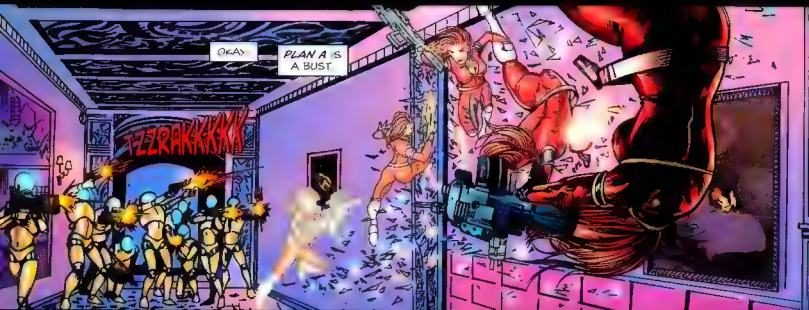


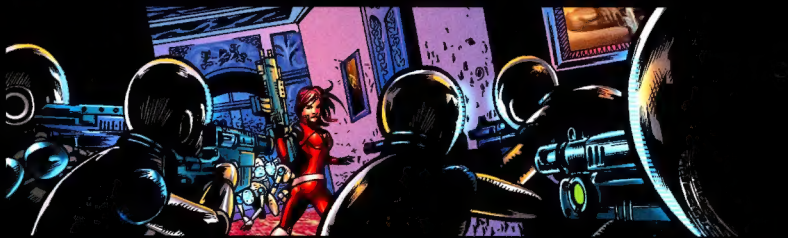


SO THEY TRIGGERED
THE RAZOR-TRAP. GOOD,
BUT THEY **FOLLOWED** ME
FROM THE LAST KILL--AND
I DIDN'T EVEN SENSE THEM.

THEY CAN FOLLOW
A PSI-TRAIL EITHER
THAT OR ELSE--







COLLECTED EDITIONS

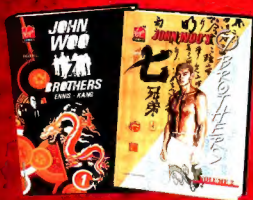
RAMAYAN 3392 AD



DEVI



**JOHN WOO'S
7 BROTHERS**



**SHEKHAR KAPUR'S
SNAKE WOMAN**



**DEEPAK CHOPRA'S
INDIA AUTHENTIC**



THE SADHU



**GUY RITCHIE'S
GAMEKEEPER**



**WESTON CAGE
& NICOLAS CAGE'S
VOODOO CHILD**



**DAVE STEWART'S
WALK IN**



ON SALE NOW
VIRGINCOMICSSTORE.COM



AT LEAST I GET TO
MAKE MY OWN RULES.

"FOLLOW THE ACTION IN THE
STRANDED, MONTHLY FROM
VIRGIN COMICS."

My
name's Ed. I get
to scan. YAY!
Better than you lady!
YAY! I scanned my
butt. YAY!



YAY!
DCP YAY!
Hey lady,
say it with me.
YAY DCP YAY!!!!

YAY! Oroboros
teamed with me! YAY!
He scanned his butt too!
YAY.
YAY DCP YAY!

